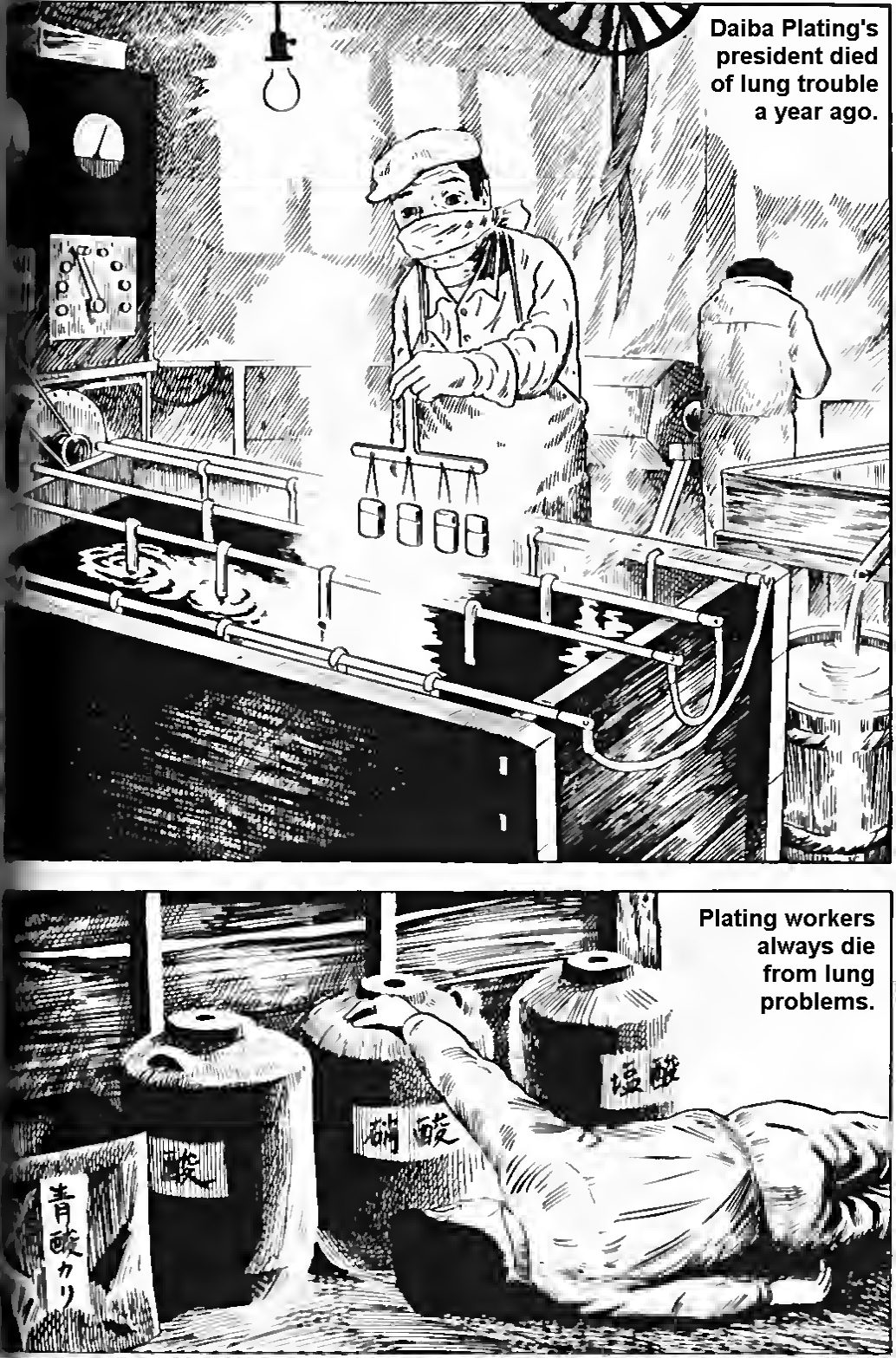
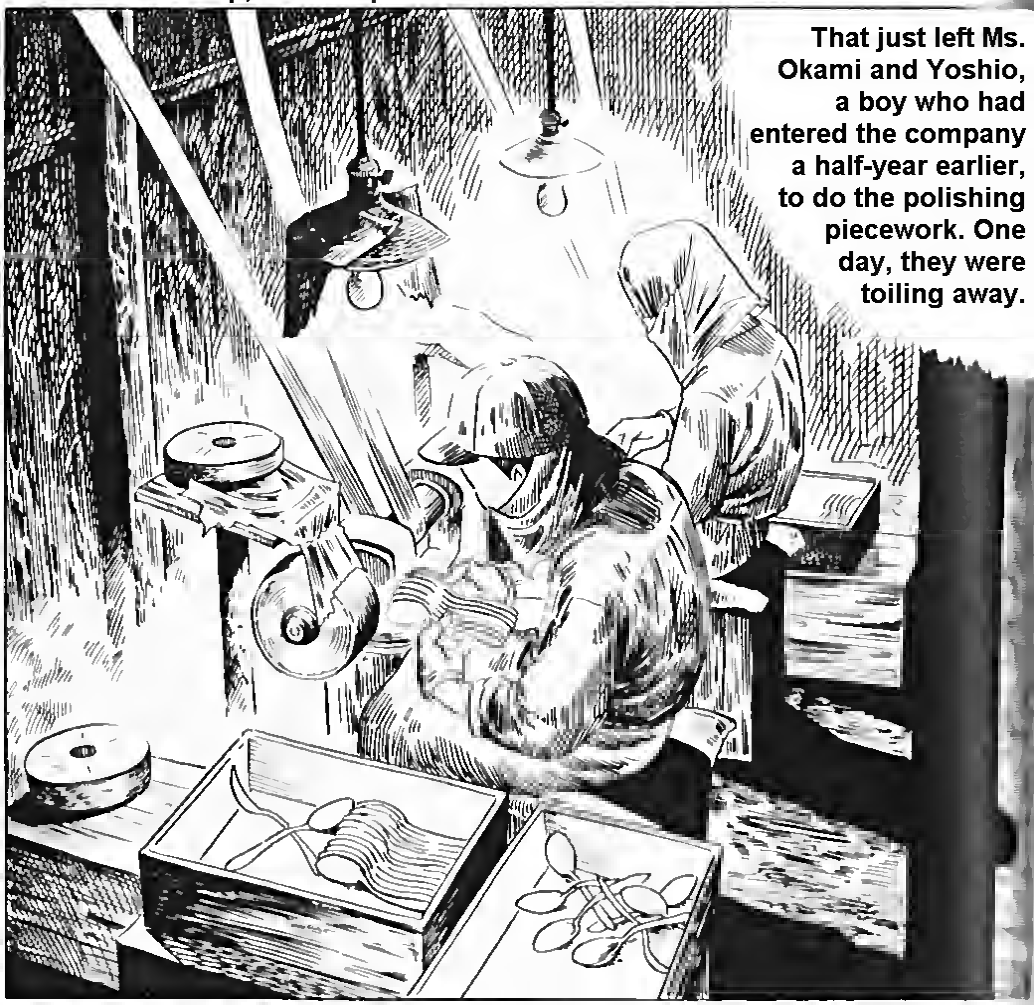
Daiba Electroplating Company


Daiba Plating's president died of lung trouble a year ago.
Plating workers always die from lung problems.
塩酸
硝酸
青酸カリ

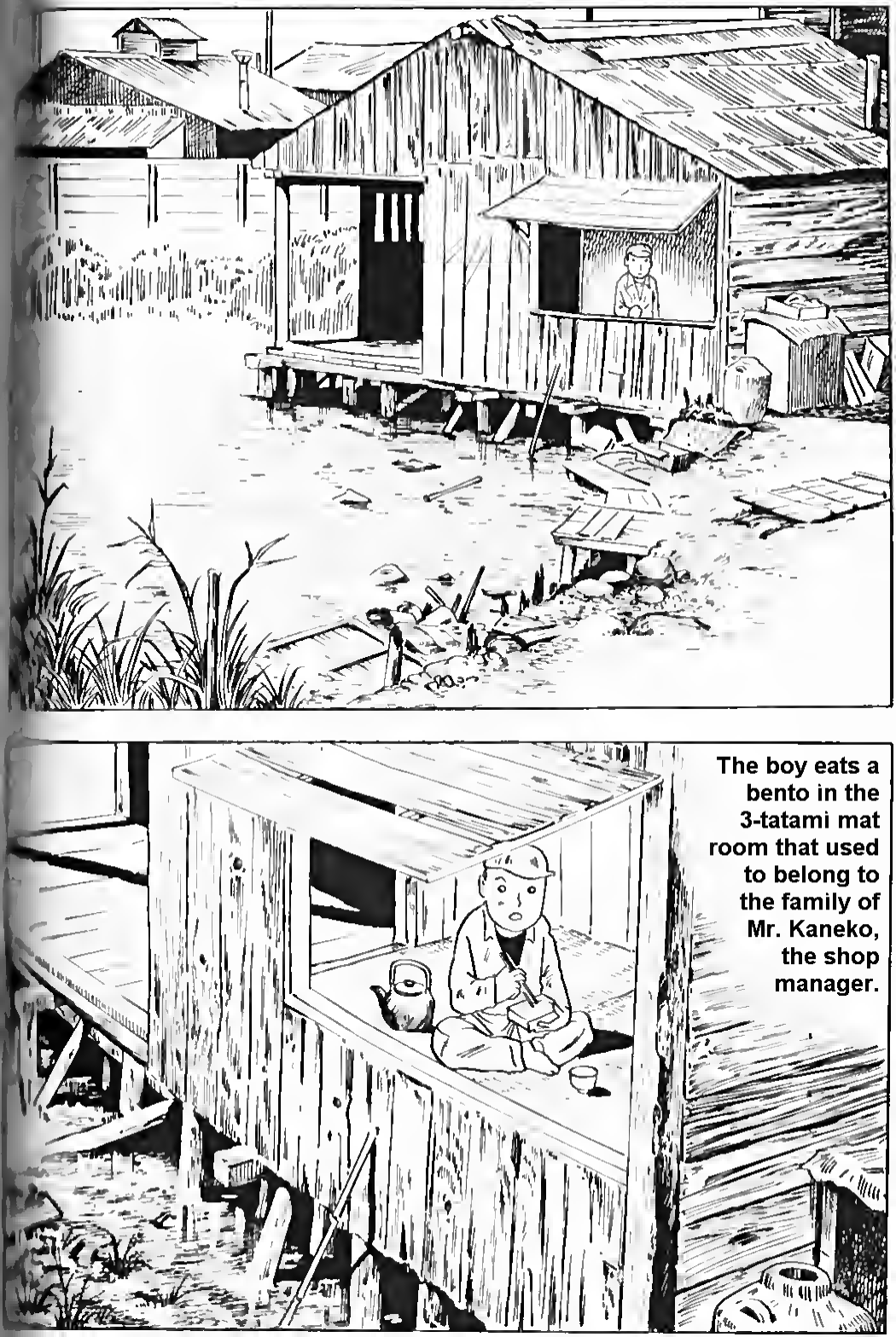
sfx: ba-thump, ba-thump

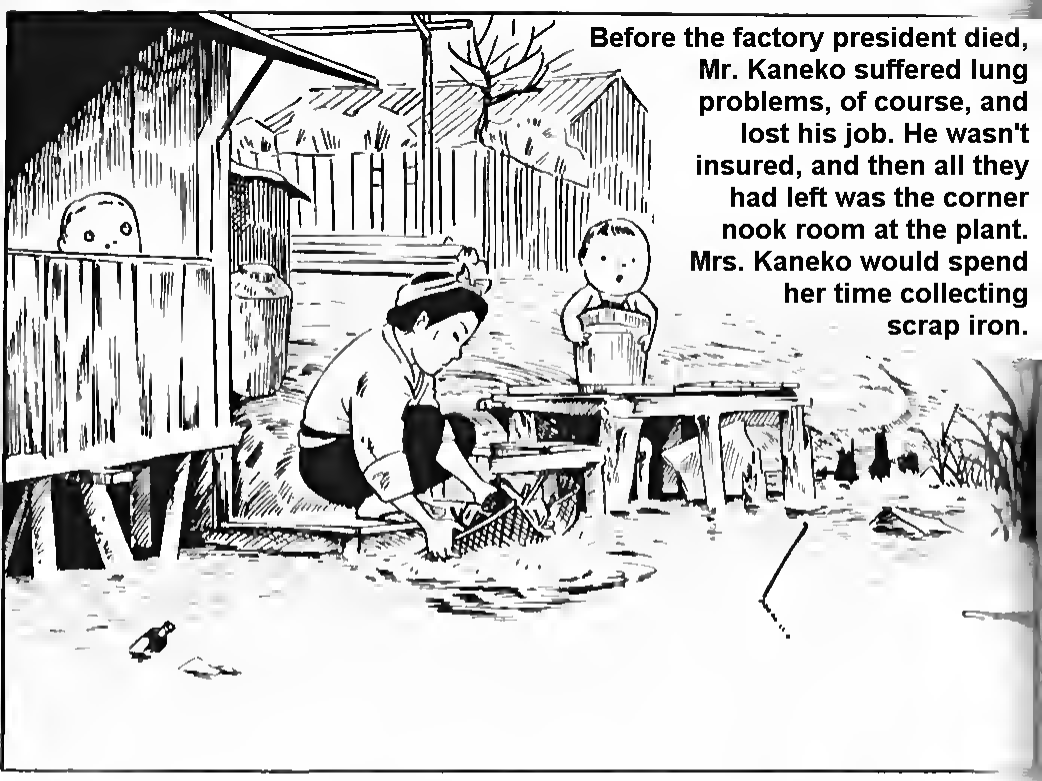


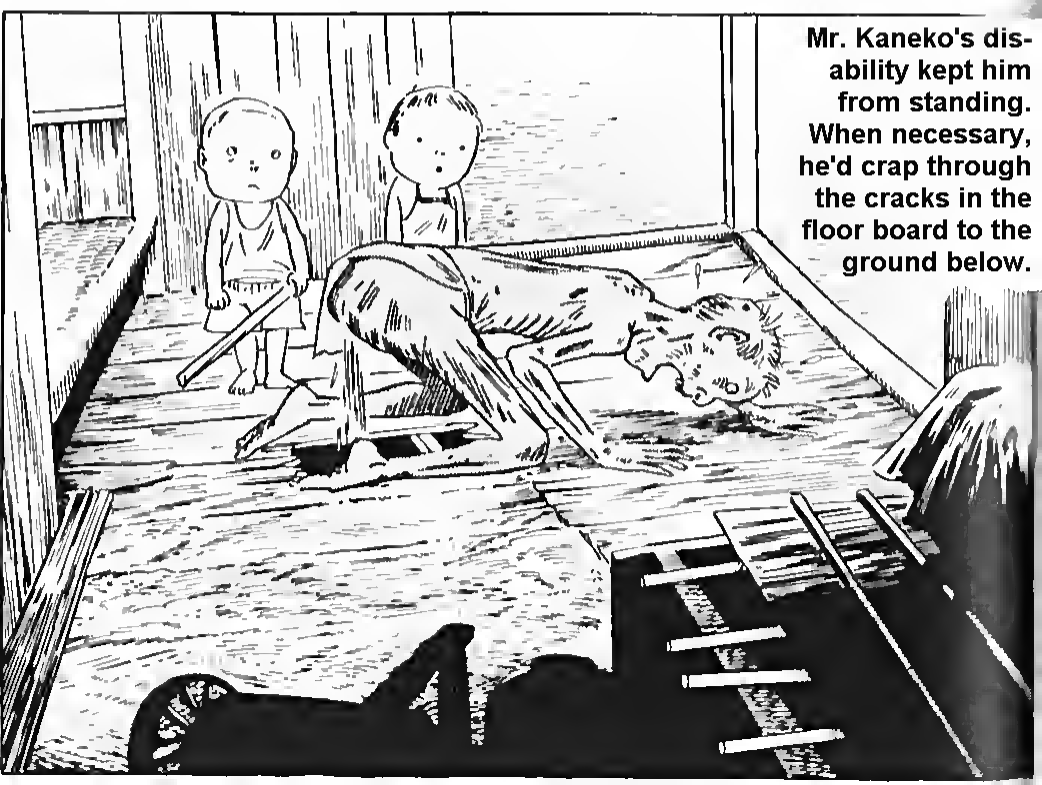
That just left Ms. Okami and Yoshio, a boy who had entered the company a half-year earlier, to do the polishing piecework. One day, they were toiling away.

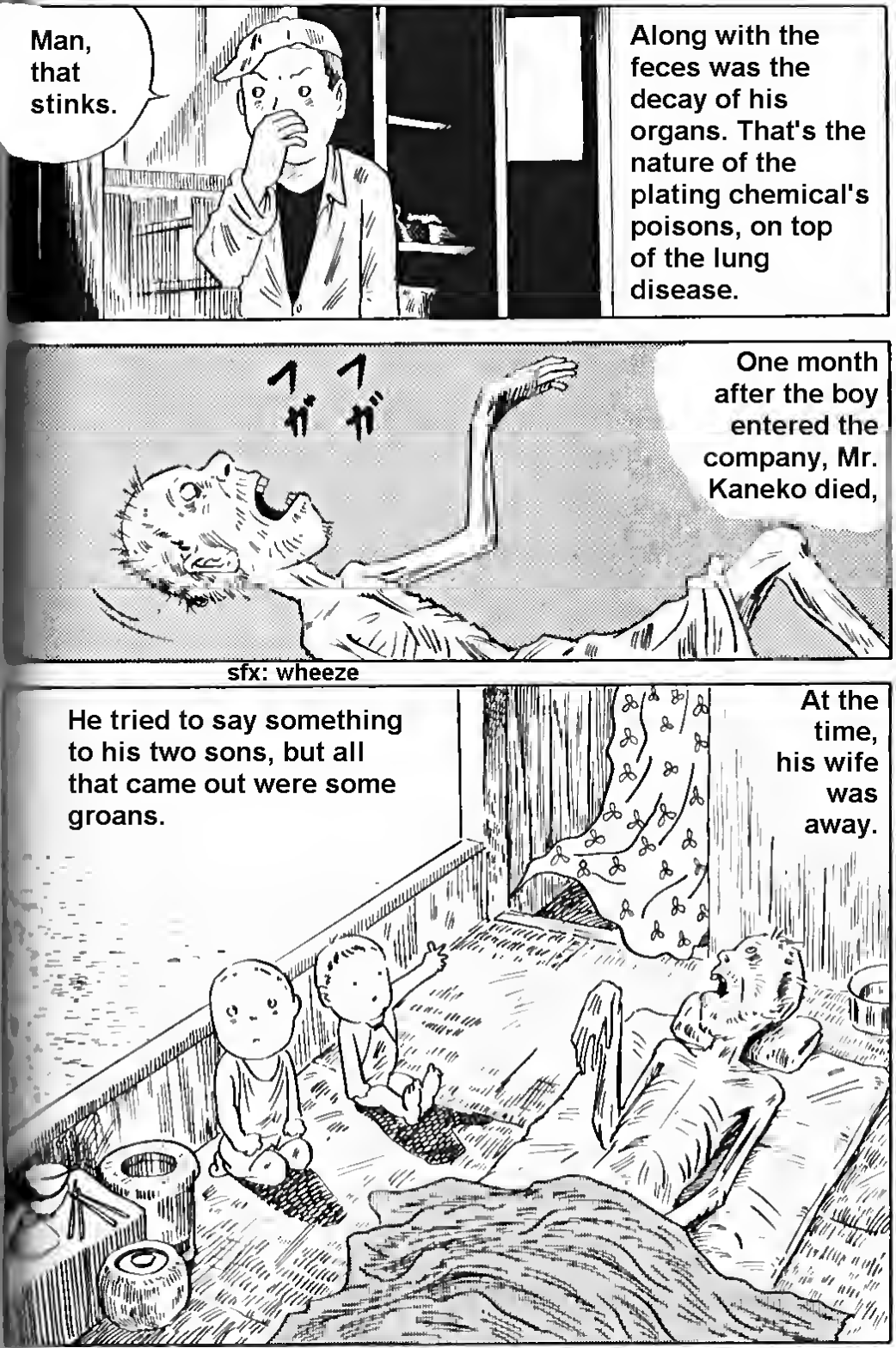
Ah, ow!
These things are hard to polish aren't they.
I did it again.
Ok. I'll heat up the tea.
Yoshi-chan, let's break for lunch, ok?
Ugh, this dust is awful!
バサッ
バサッ

I'm stepping out after lunch.
Work, too. A big job, maybe.
I've got something good. If everything works out, I might have another worker to join us.
Can't live on sub-contract work forever, right?

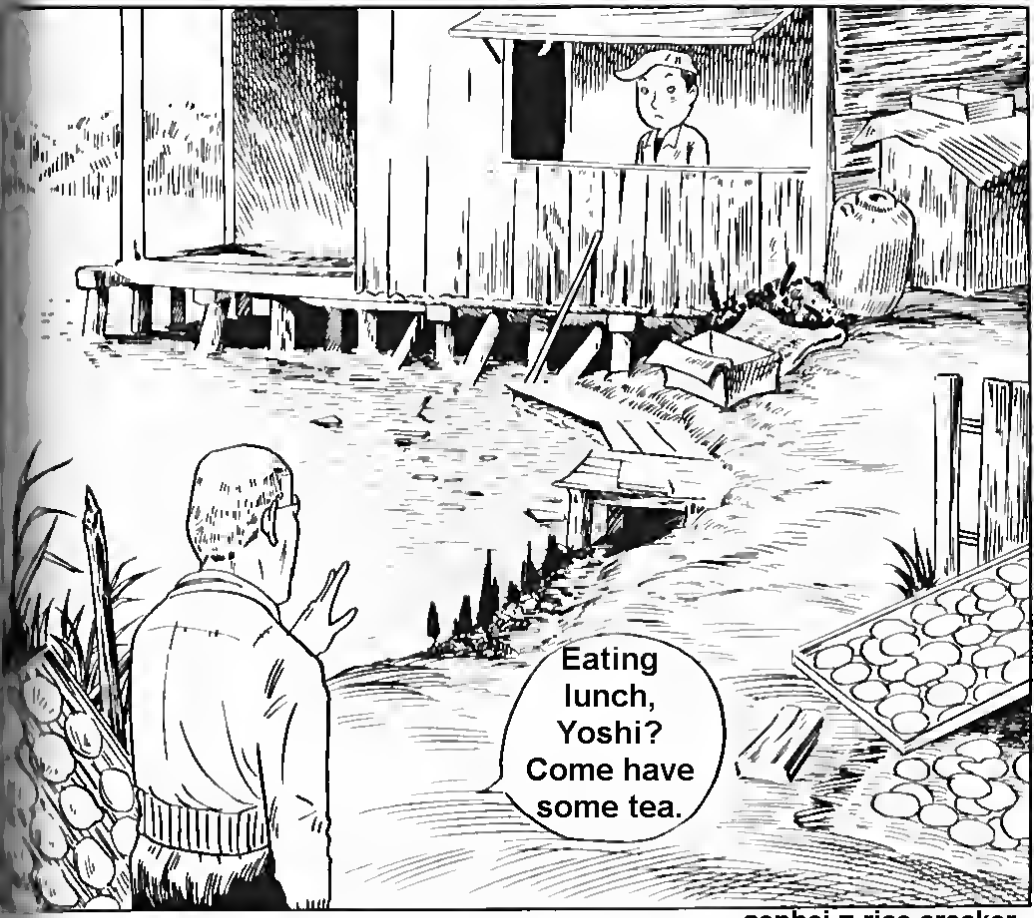

The boy eats a bento in the 3-tatami mat room that used to belong to the family of Mr. Kaneko, the shop manager.


Before the factory president died, Mr. Kaneko suffered lung problems, of course, and lost his job. He wasn't insured, and then all they had left was the corner nook room at the plant. Mrs. Kaneko would spend her time collecting scrap iron.

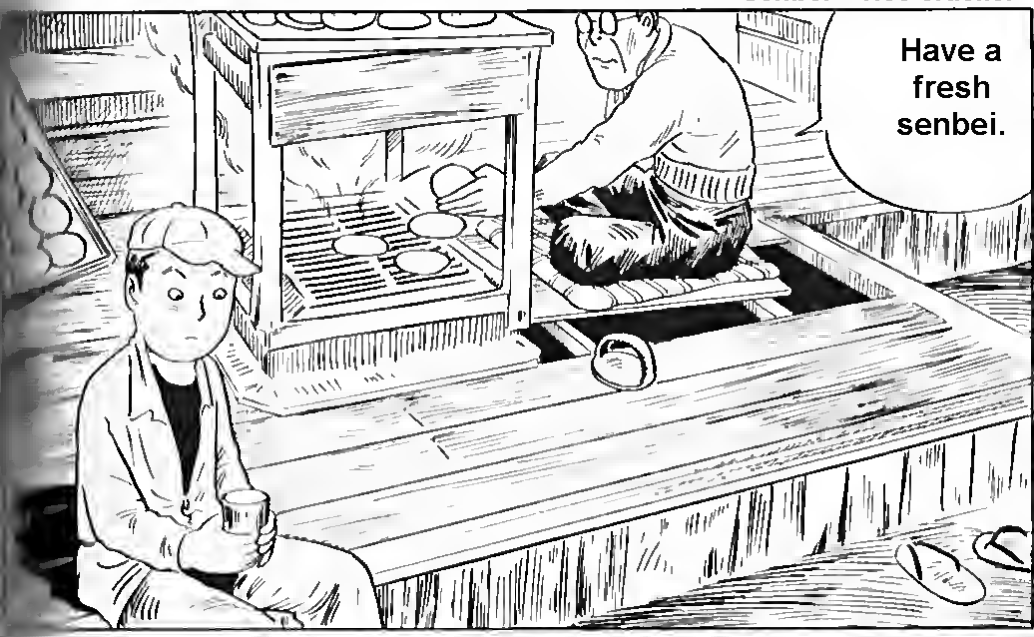

Mr. Kaneko's disability kept him from standing. When necessary, he'd crap through the cracks in the floor board to the ground below.


Man, that stinks.
Along with the feces was the decay of his organs. That's the nature of the plating chemical's poisons, on top of the lung disease.
One month after the boy entered the company, Mr. Kaneko died,
sfx: wheeze
He tried to say something to his two sons, but all that came out were some groans.
At the time, his wife was away.

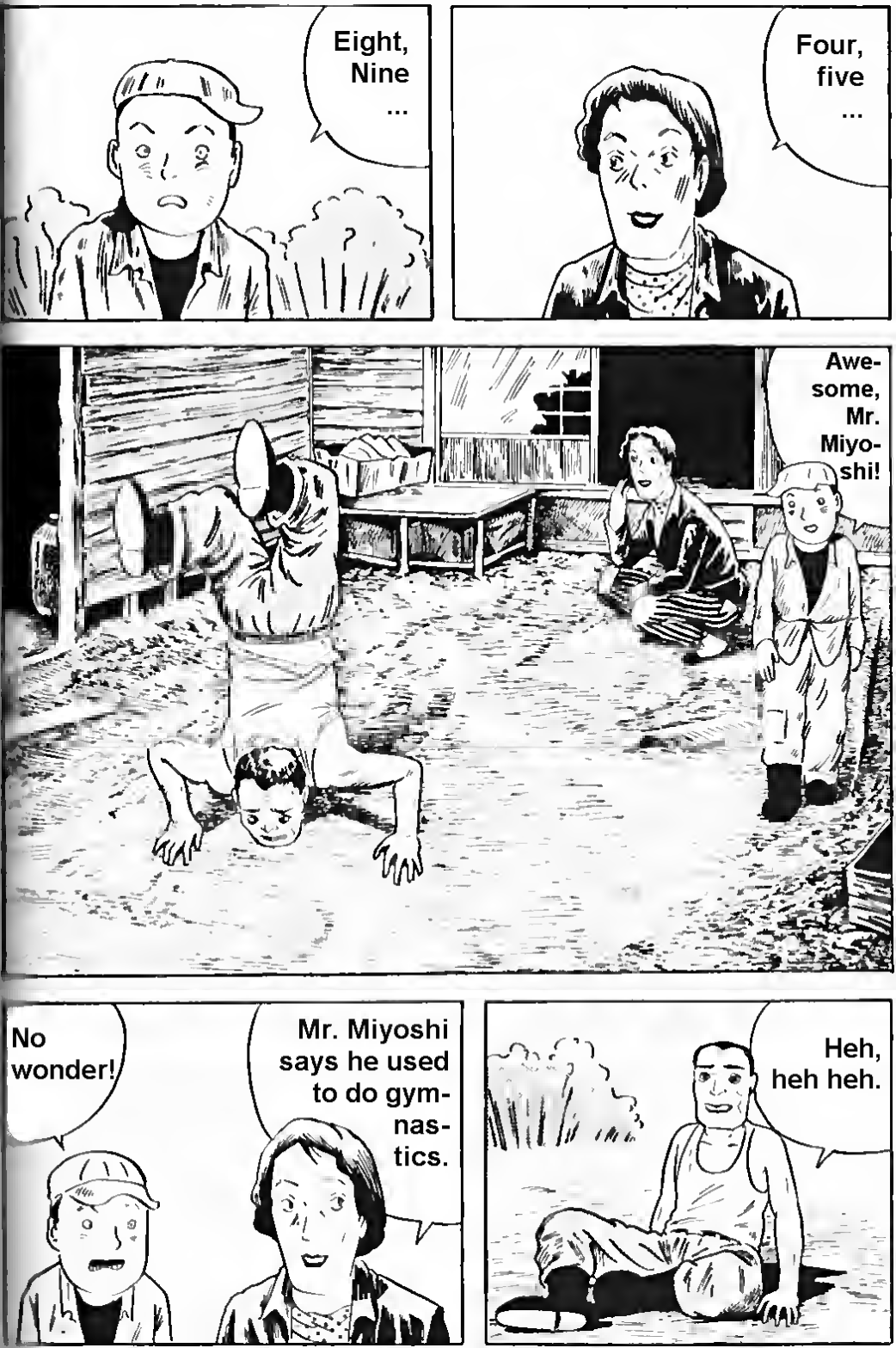
Mrs Okami, Mr. Kaneko is dead.
Yoshi-chan, don't get close. The decay can travel.
After that, the remaining Kaneko family dis-appeared.
You!
With Mr. Kaneko gone, his wife and Mrs. Okami got into a big fight over the compensation money.
How dare you!



senbei = rice cracker



Is that so.
Looks like we might get a new hand today.
Ha, ha ha... Come join me making senbei.
Who'd come to this rundown plating shop?


Eight, Nine ...
Four, five ...
Awe-some, Mr. Miyo-shi!
No wonder!
Mr. Miyoshi says he used to do gym-nas-tics.
Heh, heh heh.

This room's ok, right? It used to be mine.
Yeah, well...
From now, we'll not just do polishing, we'll do plating, too.
I fixed this place up.
Because we've got the tank and the generator.

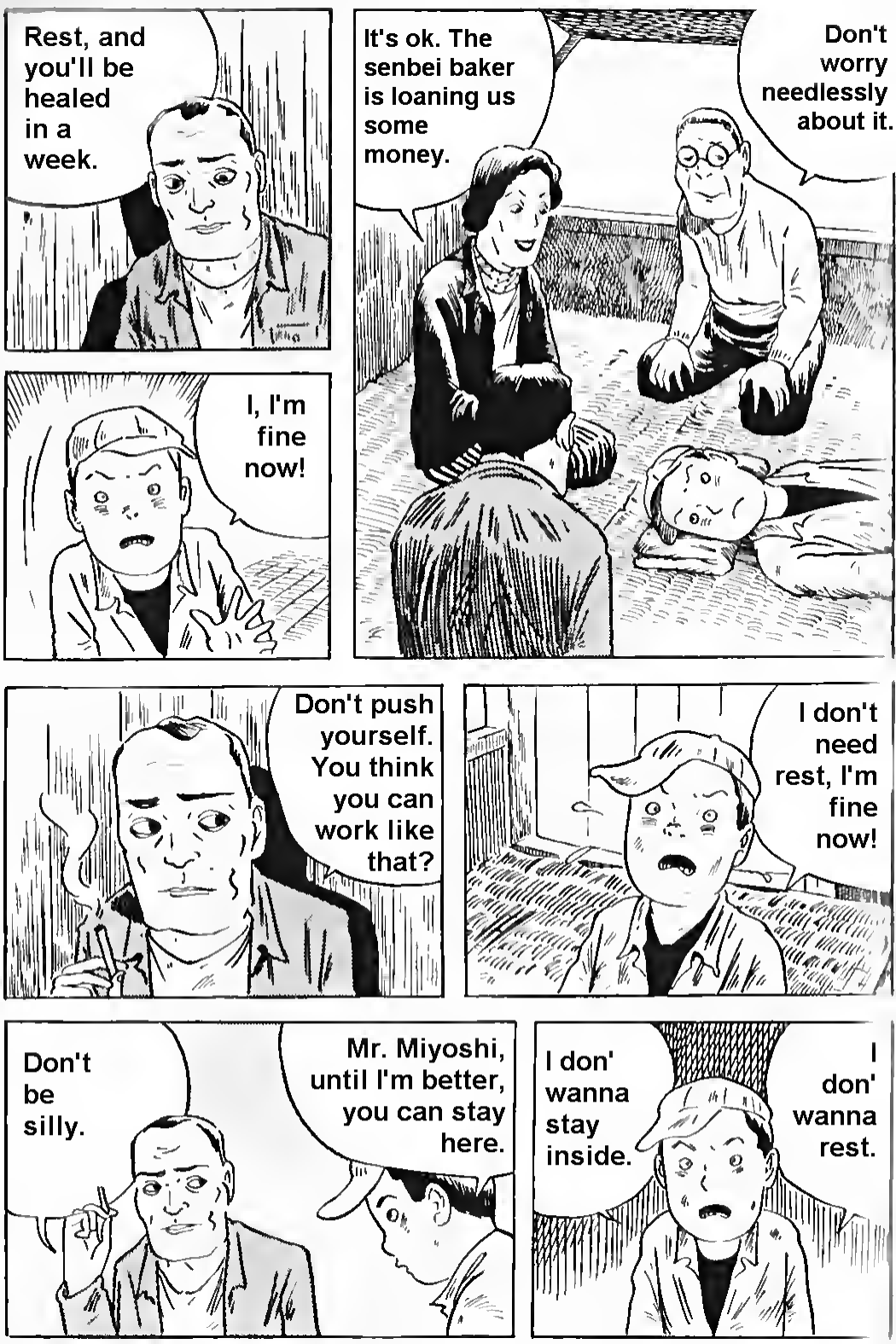
But unless you have some nickel or chrome, it's not worth discussing.
It's true plating pays better than polishing.
If you tried buying nickel now, your eyes would pop out of your head.
Mrs. Okami is worried about the money, but we could still sell it.
Well, one of these days, any way.
I'll try it anyway!
Now with the Korean war, nickel's gotten scarce.
Mr. Miyoshi, we received new work.

They're packed into bombs to increase the damage.
It's shot.
This, it looks like a pistol bullet.
Can't be helped.
Figures, piece work then.
It's work from the Yanks, so the pay will be good.
Just give it a quick buff.
Place one in this board.
You can do 5000 in one day.
With this, it's polished.

I've just gotten busy.
O K
If it's rusty, don't polish it. just throw it in some sulphiric acid.
Well, buy a bottle and come back.
But, with all this brass, we don't have enough sulphuric acid.
If they have a 2-shou size, I'll get that and just add water.
I see... I don't have a cent either.
Mr. Miyoshi, it's, well... I...

No choice but a 1-shou size.
Ah-!
ドン
sfx: bump
sfx: crack
ガシャン

Child, are you ok?
I feel for him.
The acid got inside his boot.
His pants are a mess.
Mrs. Okami, what about the acid?

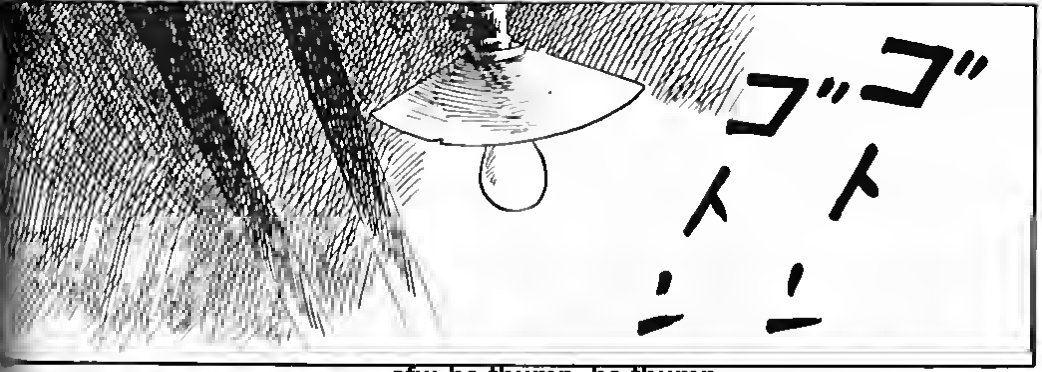

Rest, and you'll be healed in a week.
It's ok. The senbei baker is loaning us some money.
Don't worry needlessly about it.
I, I'm fine now!
Don't push yourself. You think you can work like that?
I don't need rest, I'm fine now!
Don't be silly.
Mr. Miyoshi, until I'm better, you can stay here.
I don' wanna stay inside.
I don' wanna rest.

sfx: ba-thump, ba-thump

That's strange.
ゴ" ゴ" トン
sfx: ba-thump, ba-thump
It's almost noon.
Did Mrs. Okami and Mr. Miyoshi go out somewhere?
鍍金工業所
Oh, it's been a while, sir.
Ah, if it isn't Yoshi.

I guess Mrs. Okami and Mr. Miyoshi are out now.
Look, my leg's all better.
?
You, what are you alone here for?
Skip-ped out?...
You...
Mrs. Okami skipped out last night.
And the factory is owned by someone else.
It looks that way. She has lots of debts, right?

Both of them.
They left.
You really don't know, do you?
Mr. Miyoshi ?
.....
Therefore, it'd be better if you left the shop, too.



sfx: ba-thump, ba-thump

sfx: screech, screech